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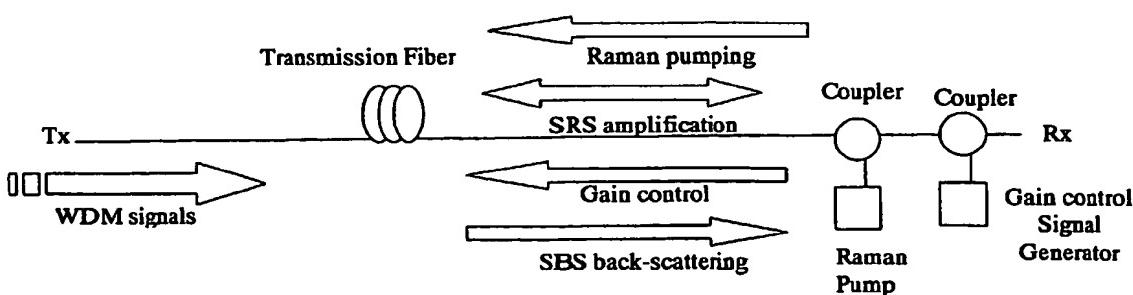
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(54) Title: GAIN CONTROL IN OPTICAL AMPLIFIERS



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(57) Abstract: A means and method for controlling the gain of a optical amplifier receiving one or more optical input signal channels has a source for generating a gain control signal, input to the optical amplifier at the opposite end to the input signal channels. The gain control signal is generated at a power level that produces stimulated Brillouin scattering (SBS) in the optical amplifier.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 H04B10/17 H01S3/30

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 H04B H01S

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

INSPEC, EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 160 657 A (LEE SEUNG-HEE ET AL) 12 December 2000 (2000-12-12)	1,9-12, 20
Y	abstract column 2, line 21 - line 44 column 2, line 63 -column 3, line 7 figure 4 --- US 6 441 950 B1 (CHEN CHIEN-JEN ET AL) 27 August 2002 (2002-08-27) abstract column 1, line 45 -column 2, line 21 column 3, line 35 - line 48 column 10, line 5 -column 11, line 7 figures 9,10 ---	2-8, 13-19
Y		2-8, 13-19
		-/-

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0 883 255 A (NORTHERN TELECOM LTD) 9 December 1998 (1998-12-09) abstract page 3, line 12 – line 25 -----	1-20

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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